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COUNTRY Lebanon/Turkey/USSR

SUBJECT 1. The Hierarchy of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch

2. Attitude of Prelates Toward Soviets

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Organization of the Patriarchate of Antioch

1. The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East includes six dioceses in Lebanon, six in Syria, three in Turkey (presently vacant), one in the United States, and two in Latin America (presently vacant). The Patriarchate of Antioch is one of seven Patriarchates, the others being those of Istanbul, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and the three newly created Patriarchates of Moscow, Yugoslavia and Rumania.
2. Under the Patriarch is the Holy Synod, composed of eleven Metropolitans (the full complement is twelve, but the diocese of Tripoli, Lebanon, is vacant), and one Archbishop.
3. The Church hierarchy consists of seven Syrian, seven Lebanese, and two American prelates. The following is a list of these prelates, in order of their rank:
 - a. Patriarch Alexandros Tahan, of Greek and Czarist-Russian education. Although pro-Russian politically, ideologically he is not a Communist. [REDACTED] The Patriarch 25X1A6a has been described as undisciplined, despotic, and a Russophile.)
 - b. Mgr. Raphael Nimr, Metropolitan of Aleppo and Alexandretta. A Lebanese, whose priority in the Holy Synod is contested, because of his mental condition. He is a man of no education and speaks only Arabic.
 - c. Mgr. Theodose Abu-Rujayli, Metropolitan of Tyre, Sidon and dependencies, is a Lebanese of Greek education and is considered pro-Anglo-American.
 - d. Mgr. Niphon Saba, Metropolitan of Zahle, Ba'labek and dependencies, 25X1A6a is a Syrian, and Arab-educated; pro-Anglo-American. [REDACTED] 25X1A6a In February 1947 Saba was described as the leader of the pro-Communist movement among Greek Orthodox clergy.)

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- e. Mgr. Ignatios Hurayki, Metropolitan of Hama and dependencies, is a Lebanese of Greek education and is considered pro-Arab.
- f. Mgr. Epiphaneos Zayid, Metropolitan of Aldar and dependencies, is a Syrian, who had studied for two years in Czarist Russia. He claims to be politically neutral.
- g. Mgr. Ilyas Salibi, Metropolitan of Beirut, is a Lebanese with no education who speaks only Arabic. He hopes to attain the Patriarchate after the death of Alexandros Tahan, who is eighty-three years old. Mgr. Salibi is pro-Soviet, and expects to receive Soviet assistance in attaining the Patriarchate.
- 25X1A6a () Salibi has been reported several times as having been in contact with members of the Soviet Legation, for whom he seems to report on church and local affairs.)
- h. Mgr. Triphon Ghurayyih, Metropolitan of Lattakia, is a Greek-educated Syrian who is politically pro-Anglo-American.
- i. Mgr. Athanasios Qulaylah, Metropolitan of Hawran, Jebel Druze and dependencies, is a Syrian who completed his higher education in Czarist Russia. He also claims to be politically neutral.
- j. Mgr. Alexandros Jahha, Metropolitan of Homs and dependencies, is a Lebanese who, like Qulaylah, completed his higher education in Czarist Russia and claims to be politically neutral. 25X1A6a
- 25X1A6a () An amount of evidence accumulated since 1945 shows that Jahha is actively pro-Soviet, a propagandist and, from reports received in 1948, involved in Soviet Intelligence activities. In April 1948 he was reported to be a member of a group formed by Zayn-al-Din Hasanov, delegate of the Soviet Legation in Beirut to the Communist Parties of Syria and Lebanon, with the purpose of carrying out the orders of the Cominform. () 25X1X6
- k. Mgr. Iliyya Karam, Metropolitan of Mt. Lebanon (Jubayl-Batrun), is a Lebanese of no education. He is at present in Russia for the third time in recent years ostensibly on a church mission.
- 25X1A6a () To attend the 500th Anniversary of the Russian Orthodox Church.) Karam was accompanied on this visit to Russia by Bishop Jahha and Archimandrite Samahah. On his return from his trip to the Soviet Union in January 1948, Karam is said to have brought "instructions from the Cominform" with him from Russia for delivery to the Damascus Communist Party leaders who were cut off from their normal channels of communication by the strict control measures adopted by the Syrian Government. In addition to the expected increase of prestige and influence which Karam hopes to gain from his Soviet contacts, he is said to receive present material benefits from the Soviets.

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[redacted] Karam is not popular with the Greek Orthodox who resent Orthodox Arabs, as they regard him as a clever and dangerous propagandist for the Soviets. [redacted] In May 1948 Karam was reported to be an assistant of Archimandrite Samahah, Communist paymaster in the Levant states for distribution of funds to Orthodox priests in Lebanon. [redacted]

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1. Mgr. Anthony Bashir, Metropolitan of New York City and North America, is Anglo-American educated and strongly Anglo-American politically.
 2. Mgr. Meletios Kattini, ex-Metropolitan of Diyar Bekir, who has resigned.
 3. Mgr. Samuel David, Archbishop of Toledo, is the only Archbishop in the Patriarchate. He is also a member of the Holy Synod. His diocese is subordinate to the Metropolitan of New York. Mgr. David is presumably pro-Anglo-American.
 4. Mgr. Fotios Khury, Honorary Bishop of Palmyra, is a Greek-educated Lebanese who is pro-Anglo-American. He is not a member of the Holy Synod.
 5. Mgr. Sergios Sammah, Honorary Bishop of Seleucia, is a Syrian and pro-Arab. Mgr. Sammah is not a member of the Holy Synod.
4. In addition to the above Metropolitans, mention should be made of the Archimandrite Basilios Samahah, a man of no education, described by source as a "first-class Communist." Although a young man of perhaps not more than twenty-seven years of age, he has been rising rapidly in the church, and the Soviets are understood to be pressing the Patriarch to promote Samahah to the rank of bishop. [redacted] Samahah was reported in November 1947 to be the liaison between the Orthodox Patriarchate, the Soviet Legation and the Soviet-satellite legations. [redacted] described Samahah as an important propaganda and intelligence agent. [redacted] In February 1948 Samahah was reported to be activating, with the aid of Archimandrite Simeon Nikitin, the representative of the Patriarchate of Moscow to the Patriarchate of Antioch, a group of intelligence agents to work for the Soviets. A special fund was allotted for this purpose by the Soviet Legation. [redacted] In March 1948 Samahah was reported to have been appointed as the representative of the Patriarchate of Antioch to the Patriarchate of Moscow. [redacted] In May 1948 Samahah was reported to be one of the Communist paymasters in the Levant who was responsible for paying Orthodox priests in Lebanon. [redacted]
5. The pro-Soviet activities of Karam, Salibi and Samahah are well known, and they have many assistants in their work for the Soviets, mostly drawn from the lay community. However, [redacted] the majority of the clergy are not influenced by the Soviets. The three priests mentioned above maintain indirect contact with the Soviets through TASS or the Soviet Commercial Attache in Beirut, Alexander Berezhine, as well as direct contact through visits to the Soviet Legation, generally at night.

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